



# The Hour

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## FASCIST TESTIMONY ON LEND-LEASE BILL

The Fifth Columnists in the United States cannot complain that their spokesmen have been denied a hearing on the lend-lease bill. Four individuals whose fascist leanings are a matter of public record have testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. They are Gerald L. K. Smith, Merwin K. Hart, Justice Herbert A. O'Brien and William J. Goodwin.

Gerald L. K. Smith's anti-democratic career dates back a number of years. This ruddy-faced intimate of the late Huey Long played an active part in organizing the Silver Shirts. Smith's membership number in the Nazi-like gang was 3223. His wife was also a member; her number was 3220.

Gerald L. K., who has taken to moving in high society in Detroit, today finds his former association with William Dudley Pelley's fascist band somewhat embarrassing. Sometimes he denies it altogether; sometimes, as when he is confronted with documentary proof of his membership in the Silver Shirts, he laughingly explains it was all "an accident." The accidental character of the relationship can be judged from the following passage from one of Smith's many letters to Pelley: "... by the time you receive this letter I shall be on the road to St. Louis and parts north with a uniformed squad of young men composing what I believe will be the first Silver Shirt stormtroop in America."

Smith, himself a first-class rabble-rouser of the evangelist school, was not content to remain a mere Pelley lieutenant. He branched out on his own. He organized and became the leader of one vigilante group after another. His anti-democratic anti-labor activities won the attention of some of the big fascists behind the scenes. In 1939 he came to Detroit, Michigan, where he was soon provided with ample time on Station WJR, the auto city's largest and most expensive station. Detroit offered conveniences additional to financial backing, for Smith was right next door to his old friend and co-worker Father Coughlin, with whom, in 1936, he had directed the Union Party presidential campaign. Detroit, the home of the Black Legion, has found excellent use for the services of Silver Shirts Smith.

Smith is now self-styled head of a labor-baiting organization called The Committee of 1,000,000. It was in the name of this committee

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that he recently testified in Washington.

## Hart's Connections

Harold L. Ickes had good reasons for recently describing Merwin K. Hart as "fascist-minded." In spite of Hart's consequent objections, the description is if anything an understatement. Hart's contempt for democracy has been shown both in his actions and his words. He has been closely associated with Father Coughlin, for whose publication, Social Justice, he wrote an article entitled "There Is No Want In National Spain"; with Allen Zoll, anti-Semitic ex-fuehrer of the American Patriots, who is now under indictment on charges of attempted extortion; with Edward Lodge Curran, ardent supporter and eastern representative of Coughlin; with John B. Snow, well-known Naziphile; with John B. Trevor, New York gentleman-fascist; and with various other U. S. Fifth Columnists. Hart has held meetings made notable by the presence of such eminent anti-Americans as ex-Bund leader Fritz Kuhn. With Allen Zoll's assistance Hart arranged mass rallies in support of Spain's fascist dictator, Generalissimo Franco. He is author of a book, America -- Look At Spain, in which he condones with historical analogies the present persecution of Jews in Spain.

Logically enough, Merwin K. Hart is chairman of the New York State Economic Council, an organization noted for its anti-democratic activities, which include promoting articles written by labor spies and anti-Semites.

## O'Brien, Goodwin and Co.

Justice Herbert O'Brien and William J. Goodwin have similar records. The former, a grey-haired ultra-reactionary jurist, has spoken at Christian Front rallies and has been acclaimed by this U. S. stormtroop band as one of its most effective protagonists. Acting as chairman at a Coughlin mass meeting in 1938, he enthusiastically introduced as a speaker Allen Zoll of the American Patriots. Later he praised James O'Kelley, head of the pro-Nazi Paul Revere Sentinels, for being "a fine man."

According to Dr. Robert W. Searle, prominent New York minister, William J. Goodwin is a "friend of Reverend Charles E. Coughlin, an associate and co-worker of Allen Zoll ... and a protégé of Robert M. Harris, who manipulated Father Coughlin's silver speculations." Like his friend O'Brien, Goodwin is closely linked up with the Christian Front.

The Hour is in possession of a letter sent out over the signature of William J. Goodwin and on the letterhead of Hon. Herbert A. O'Brien which clearly illustrates the fascistic tendencies of these gentlemen. In discussing "democracy" the letter states:

"... some of the foremost advocates of 'democracy' seem to qualify by an anti-Christian attitude; whereas the moment an antagonist is declared guilty ... of being anti-Semitic, such a one is disqualified, immediately, from the classification of 'democratic' and becomes ... 'anti-

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democratic' and even, in the present period of agitation, 'anti-American.'"

Commenting on the foreign scene, the letter observes:

"Under Marshall Petain, a good man, the churches were reopened ... Immediately ... certain newspapers began to call Marshall Petain a Fascist. This was emphasized even more so when anti-Semitic measures were put into effect barring Jews from certain types of professions and public office.' Isn't it strange how the term 'democracy' was previously applied to an anti-Christian France and the term 'anti-democratic' is now applied to a Christian France ...?

"China is admitted to be ... drenched with Communism. Missionaries have been murdered right and left. ... Yet China is hailed as a 'democracy.' On the other hand, consider Japan. It had been, until recently, quite friendly to Christian missionaries. However ... Japan has driven out the Jews. Japan is called 'anti-democratic.'"

The four-page letter is filled with such pro-fascist, anti-Semitic ramblings. Franco is characterized as the "great liberator"; Russia is described as a country which persecutes all the Christians and protects all the Jews; not a single word is uttered against the policies of Hitler and Mussolini.

And the authors of this letter testified in the name of "Americanism" on the lend-lease bill!

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#### RUSSIAN FASCIST DENOUNCES FRED WARING

On January 26 the Russian-language fascist newspaper, Rossiya, published an open letter addressed to Radio Station WEAF, New York City, vigorously denouncing the Fred Waring Orchestra for a recent rendering of the former Tsarist anthem. The letter is signed by Boris Brasol, the White Russian agent who some years ago brought the Protocols of Zion to the United States and arranged to have this notorious anti-Semitic forgery published in Henry Ford's Dearborn Independent.

Brasol, who still cherishes warm memories of the Tsar's regime, was deeply offended by Fred Waring's treatment of the hymn to the erstwhile ruler of the Russians. In his letter to WEAF, nostalgia is mingled with vexation:

"Dear Sirs: On January 16, at 7:00 p.m. your station broadcasted a musical program advertising the Chesterfield Cigarettes. You found it appropriate to choose for this commercial advertisement the majestic music of the old Russian national anthem written to the words 'God Save the Czar,' which your conductor deliberately turned into something smack-ing of Ribald jazz or cakewalk. Thereupon, the choir singing



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to this corrupt and corrupted tune advised the radio audience that 'forty million Americans are smoking Chesterfields.'

"... We strongly protest against this kind of abuse ... Elementary decency requires that ... the Russian national anthem ... be not dragged into the field of speculative advertisement, still less that its beautiful strains be not converted by cheap music peddlers into ear-breaking jazz-band tunes."

Brasol goes on to intimate that Waring's irreverent playing of the Tsarist hymn was probably part of a Bolshevik plot. He concludes his letter with the threat of a boycott of Chesterfield cigarettes by Brasol's Russian-American National Committee, an organization composed of pro-Nazi and pro-Japanese Russian exiles, anti-Semitic ex-Tsarist officers, and various other Fifth Columnists.

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#### MCWILLIAMS' GUIDE

New York tradesmen are receiving by mail from Joseph E. McWilliams, American Destiny Party fuehrer, copies of the Christian Consumer's Guide which his organization has recently compiled (see The Hour for January 11). The Guide, an eight-page brochure, lists "the only Christian stores and businesses in the area bounded by 79th Street and 86th Street and between Second Avenue and the East River." The catalogue is accompanied by a form letter, signed by McWilliams, which states:

Dear Sir or Madam: Uncounted thousands of people have asked us for a simple complete directory of the Christian owned stores and businesses in this neighborhood. To satisfy this great need there is now available 'THE CHRISTIAN CONSUMER'S GUIDE'.

You are listed as you will note. ... The population of your neighborhood will surely begin buying more and more from their own kind. ... Over a period of a year you will get many new customers, and your profits will increase because the Christian people are waking up at last. This guide will steer your share your way.

The letter declares that similar directories will soon "cover all the Christian neighborhoods in greater New York" and concludes with an appeal for funds to help "the cause."

The Hour is informed that the 400-odd tradesmen listed in the "Aryan Directory" have been named without the consent of any of them. One of these businessmen indignantly writes us, "I have been a business man in Yorkville for 24 years; my father for years before me; and my place of business is mentioned in this guide, without my permission or knowledge."

Many of the tradesmen have already demanded that their names be withdrawn. McWilliams is not unprepared for these objections. He expected them. Several weeks ago he confided what he would do with objectors. He would, he said, have their shops picketed by his storm-troopers, who would carry signs stating: "This shopkeeper doesn't want to be known as a Christian."